

Hi Fans!

Many thanks to you for the jillion beautiful Christmas cards and gifts we all received. Truly fantastic. We have the greatest fan club members in the world and we all wish you a very happy 1974. We've had numerous complaints concerning Newsletters. Seems like some of you are not receiving them. We've checked with the mailing company and the letters ARE going out. If you're not receiving them, please check with your local postmaster. There are times when and areas where bulk mail doesn't reach the addressee. Back issues of Newsletters are still available for 5¢ per copy or \$1.25 per set. Also FOR A LIMITED TIME WE ARE HAVING A PATCH AND POSTER SALE. For just \$1.50 you will receive both a sew-on patch and a Song For You poster. The beautiful orange and yellow patches sporting Carpenter silhouette and logo are made by Lion Bros., the same company that makes all the beautiful Apollo patches. For this offer send \$1.50 to Carpenter Patch and Poster Offer, Box 1084, Downey, Cal. 90240. For those of you who play bridge or other card games requiring two decks of cards, we now have the second part of a double deck - orange with white logo this time to contrast with the white with orange deck. Now let's go back to June and pick up K & R in Shreveport, La. Fans discovered they were housed at the Sheraton Motor Inn and lost no time in finding them. K & R had no time to sign autographs before the concert but the gang was waiting when they returned so they posed with the fans for picture taking. Some of you members were there and R & K were delighted to hear that you enjoy the club. Dinner was enjoyed at the Inside Out Club in Old Town and the food was yummmmmmmmy. The group changed their concert format that night and received a standing ovation. During the bouncy air flight to Birmingham, Bill Skiles started a pillow fight with Doug Strawn and before long the entire group was involved and pillows and blankets were flying thru the air in more ways than one. After the battle the stewardess patched all the warriors with "funny stickers". While waiting for their limos at the airport, the group practised baseball in the airport field to limber up for the big 4th of July game. The gig was performed at the Shower of Stars where they had played in 1970 when they flew in from Hawaii and were fitted for tuxedos right there at the airport. On their way to eat they got caught in a thunder and lightning storm and a downpour of rain. K ran to get out of the rain, tripped over her baggy pants and fell on her wrist, hurting her thumb so bad she couldn't move it. It was the same thumb that had been injured during baseball practise. After dinner she placed it in a bucket of ice to bring down the swelling. The flight to Chattanooga was a real bummer. Besides being very bumpy, some one had failed to fasten a valve so there was no air conditioning and they had to fly at a very low altitude. They expected the Black Angus cafe, where they ate, to have a ranch type decor and were surprised to find it resembles a Roman Temple. At the hotel, the boys decided to check out the kitchen and tho the kitchen was closed, the chef treated them to a lovely complimentary meal. They carried some delicious fried chicken to Richard who wolfed it down in the limo on the way to the gig. In Knoxville, Tenn. they ran in to more rain which was there to greet them when they arrived, cleared for a short while, then REALLY came down and soaked them on their way to the concert. For dinner later they went to a super-plush sky dining room wearing T-shirts and jeans. They enjoyed an excellent meal there but when they tried to enter the cocktail room later they were refused entrance because of their casual attire. Excitement in Roanoke, Va. was created by the boys when they set off rockets in the court of the Holiday Inn at 3:00 o'clock in the morning. Needless to say, they were reprimanded by Sherwin, father figure of the group. On their way to the Cross Keys Inn from the Friendship International Airport, they ran into a cloudburst. It was just a little cloud and as they were driving in the rain, they could see that part of the road was completely dry. They were right on the edge of the downpour.

Tickets for all the Columbia concerts were sold out. It was an outdoor theater with a convertible, sectioned, canvas top. Immediately after their version of HELP, lightning lit the sky, thunder shook the stage, and a strong wind blew rain down between the canvas sections, filling the orchestra pit with water. Lawn patrons were forced to seek shelter under the canvas top and everyone became extremely friendly. In spite of the rain which was so loud they couldn't even hear themselves talk, the crowd went wild and gave them several standing ovations. And Burkhart, beyond and above the call of duty, took off his shirt and placed it over the EVENTIDE to protect it from the rain. The Eventide is a \$4500.00 piece of sound equipment smaller than their amplifiers. After the gig, R made a phone call to Tony Pelusa (R calls him THE BONE) who was still recovering from his bout with infectious hepatitis. They found that he was having a very speedy recovery and expected to be up and about in three weeks instead of the several months that the doctors had predicted. Their 3 day stay in Columbia afforded them time for shopping and they were delighted to find a beautiful modern mall to browse in. They also enjoyed a crab feast at Bear's home which I will describe in detail next month. Skiles was there and it was a riot!

Rap next month,

Ev